



EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – 5:30 pm
Edgartown School Library and Via Zoom**

AGENDA – REVISED 9/6

Please note: Some business will consist of a discussion and possible vote to take action

- I. Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2024 and June 10, 2024**
- II. PTA Report, Brooke Leahy, PTA President**
- III. Finance Report**
 - A. Expenditure and Fund Balance Reports
 - B. Donations
- IV. Superintendent’s Report**
 - A. General Update
 - B. Student Support Services Update
- V. Principal’s Report**
 - A. Outdoor Learning Campus Update, Mike Owen, OPM, CHA
 - B. Upcoming Events
 - C. Enrollment
 - D. Personnel
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mvyys.zoom.us/j/83266281873?pwd=OPOqyVYuzZPRjwZUGKKBGCtulyPJEKSY.1>

Meeting ID: 832 6628 1873

Passcode: 292110

Edgartown School Committee
5:30 Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Edgartown School Library

ESC Members Present:

Chair Kelly Scott via Zoom
Member Kristen Brown
Member Sara Murphy

Staff:

John Stevens -Principal
Deb DeBettencourt -Assistant Principal
Dr. Richard Smith -Superintendent
Mark Friedman -Business Administrator
Hope MacLeod -Student Support

Others:

Mike Owen, OPM, CHA
Brooke Leahy PTA President

The Edgartown School Committee (ESC) was called to order at 5:34pm.
(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

I. Approval of past meeting minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS KELLY SCOTT AND SECONDED BY KRISTEN BROWN AND MS SARA MURPHY THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2024 AND THE JUNE 10 2024 EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES WER UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 3 AYES,P NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

II. Principal's Report

Outdoor campus
Architectural firm completed design

Another project by town parks and rec next to Edgartown School campus. Mr. Owen is not at liberty to speak about specifics.

School project has a \$340,000 "problem in funding" due to the soil strata being clay and requiring several hundred feet of French drain to mitigate flooding of the new playground. Opportunity for our OPM to collaborate with whoever the Parks' OPM is , to alleviate some of our financial deficit Collaboration will delay our project beyond the summer of next year.

Recommendation is to wait until bids are in and awarded
Chair request to hear from Richie and John

Dr. Smith states that Mike and team finished VH in less than two years. Supports Mike's recommendation. Requests for Mike to speak to advantages.

Mike states that the town is paying for both projects, so by collaborating we can omit duplication of structures and resources.

Chair asks John what the new timeline will be like. Are we starting over. Mike says no. Edgartown School has already done "the heavy lifting". Whoever is selected now has to be part of design. Design approval will be 6-8 weeks past September 17.

Spring 25 projected start for companion project.

Member Brown is there any financial or timeline downfall. Mike answer is no. We will be able to share facilities and upkeep with town.

Member Murphy questioning if current drainage problem is being addressed.

Richie agrees we should be looking forward for red flags and what we will be able to collaborate on with the town.

The High School single campus concept is how Mike is thinking regarding Edgartown. We would not be a single campus legally, but for use purposes it will be. We are a town property.

John Stevens says shortfall is concerning and is disappointed in delay. Good news is we will be collaborating with Parks' dept to avoid duplication of equipment etc.

Makes sense to work together on a singular project on one piece of land

John trusts Mike and his history of projects completed well and on time.

Looks forward to working with Andy Kelly and James Haggerty on this project for what is best for the kids and the town.

Chair believes it makes fiscal and experiential sense to wait.

Mark Friedman- experience with CHA and Chilmark school replacing HVAX system was a \$2.4mil project. Chilmark thought it would be much less expensive project. Went out to bid multiple times and got very few bids and the ones they had were too expensive. CHA approached school to combine job with Firehouse project resulting in multiple bids. Looking for opportunities that are compatible to leverage for bids is recommended to attract off island bidders

Chair asks Brooke Leahy, PTA President about opportunities to fundraise in case project still needs money.

Nedine Cunningham-Staff

Play structure is currently roped off. Now that project is delayed will it be fixed. John says there is no plan to repair that structure.

Beginning of year, admin, fire chief, and custodian inspected and deemed unsafe. Will be reevaluated once we know how long project may be delayed.

Mike asks if he may look at it for us, may have a solution.

Member Brown. Two projects going on and shortcomings that we knew about ... thinks we could have arrived at this conclusion before now. Swing set constantly under water and drainage

Mike: had opportunity to meet with assistant Fire chief Andy. Andy also on building committee for fire station. Mike facilitated meeting to collaborate.

Budget always a concern. Statute requirements can make these run as long as five weeks.

Deb DeBettencourt supports collaboration. How does this get to the tax payers who are expecting something different. What will the partnership mean. Play is first. How will we prioritize? At this time, we do not allow people on our playground when school is closed. What is the next layer of what will happen.

Member murphy-How do we manage maintenance? Liability? When can it all be used?

John Stevens: There will be a soccer field between the two parts. During school day public will not use school equipment.

Richie-regional interest. Use will need to be hashed out.

Worker fatigue for those that travel to the island. Leveraging the two groups that make sense. This is a town property. Martha's Vineyard School employees are town employees.

Citizen question "Has the school project been put out to bid?"

Mike Owen : No. Had local contractor give best "guestimate"

The projects are two separate projects. There will be collaborative strategic development of the "big documents" Benefit is the budget overlap to share cost with town and get the school what they can't afford.

Citizen has hard time thinking the town will put money towards the park project due to fire station project.

Mike offers to come back next month to discuss.

Deb Grant on playground committee and parks dept was at last meeting and there was positive energy both sides

Superintendent-recommends delay

Chair asks Mike to return

III. PTA Report

Good start to the year. New kindergarten membership.

Welcome Back gifts for teachers

First day breakfast successful

We have a couple dozen members. Will be at staff meeting in October to remind staff to join.
First meeting next Tuesday at 8:20am. Meetings are 3rd Tuesday. of the month at various times
First meeting is am in conference room.
Looking forward to planning more events. If you have ideas reach out to Brooke.

Murphy thanks staff and PTA for what we do every year.
Thanks those that came tonight and appreciates participation.

IV. Finance Report

Mark Friedman
2025 Budget

A. Fund balance (See documents on file.)

Beginning balance RLF \$177,000 and change.

School Choice fund ended the year with just under \$220,000

Building positive balance over last three years due to state/fed free lunch

Need to keep an eye on rules for participating

Finances have to be within certain parameters. Can't run deficit or profit in excess.

Look at some challenges in operating budget, but this gives opportunity to resolve other issues by spending more out of this fund.

Member Brown asks where the revenue is from.

Mark states almost exclusively state reimbursement.

Are other events funded by this fund such as kinder picnic

Mark would need to look into it.

Gina- fed gives some-funds, rest state funds. Events will be all donations! Gina sources all donations.

Brown wants to know if increased number of events will be funded and how.

Mark-there are rules regarding catering

School Choice monies won't be accurate until our student census on oct 1.

B. Expense report

Showing site report aka what is being spent in the building

Beginning of fiscal year so there are still variances

Teacher salary will show in deficit and surplus.

Small variances-longevities have not been reconciled yet. That will happen in November.

"Teaching assistant" line-item pg. 2 top

Still some vacancies to fill

During the budget process budgeted for 8 but wanted 9

Working with John to find money for 9th currently not in budget

Custodian salary: A miscalculation re new position budget line item does not reflect in budget. Strategies to fix. Shift resources in general fund to revolving fund.

Student for residential placement. Happened after budget process so there is no line item on this year's budget

Hope: met with John and town officials to figure out how to meet that need .

Dr. Smith- there is an uptick in residential placements. Asked other Superintendents across the district to possibly set up a relief fund for such placements after a budget has been approved. Mark, Hope and Dr. Smith met with James Hagerty and Amy Tierney to make them aware of what is happening with this student.

It is a rigorous process by which a residential placement is agreed upon.

Residential placements are about \$300,000 per year. We know the impacts on the town and school.

Apply for extraordinary relief or "Circuit Breaker Money" in January. Won't see that money until late spring.

Mark-next report will show some significant expenses. Working with the town until application can be submitted in January.

Not a comfortable place to be in at start of fiscal year with large expense and no funds allotted Special ed stabilization fund for a reserve. This will be discussed during budget process. Will need to ask for funds at town meeting.

Murphy- is there flexibility. Are we able to move money from a fund like that?

Town meeting vote to create the fund. It is a very restrictive fund. Only for sped.

Brown: Do you have any projection of monthly expense? Is it year-round?

Hope answer It is a set amount and we pay monthly.

\$350,000 for the year

Ms. Scott: We are still in the red over \$100,000

Chair Scott doesn't understand why we are behind on the custodian position

Concerned that translation costs we are already down 233% at the beginning of the school year. ELL translations budgeted \$4,500 and have spent \$10,500.

Mark- Custodian is an Excel formula error. Funding did not carry over into the line item.

Never got the money from the town in the first place

Murphy asks can we go back to the town.

Chair believes we should try to get money from the town.

Dr. Smith-agrees large amounts. Residential is school and town responsibility.

What we usually do is Mark investigates potential funding. Sometimes areas will run in the red resolved by budget transfers. We do this at the end of the year. We will see savings with staffing. We will be able to use balances from other lines. With residential and capital projects. The mistake that was made came from the Superintendent's office...Dr. Smith wants it out there so we can openly talk about solutions.

Murphy wants to set John and staff up for success. Fear is that we will pull back and be restrictive due to these overages. Don't want to take away from anything else to resolve.

School choice money may help

Town is more than willing to work with us.

Murphy thanks Richie for his transparency

Chair supports creating separate fund for sped.

John Stevens presents donation:

\$500 from Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank from banking program

Would like to spend on library books

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. KELLY AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTES TO SPEND \$500 FROM MVSBS ON LIBRARY BOOKS. (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

V. Superintendent's Report

Recognize 9/11 requests moment of silence

All Island School Committee went through core work that we will broaden and deepen. Collaborative problem-solving lead by Hope McLeod through Think kids' initiative. Coteaching program lead by Leah Palmer. EDS/ELS expansion of that work with parent community. Work with Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium All will continue this year. These are all areas that dovetail and will create foundation.

MAEC audit will be out late October. Went over results from student forums, school climate surveys, student surveys. Exposes weaknesses and strengths. We want to have a baseline and a plan of response. Plan for continuous improvement. Started May of 2020. Worked with Ma Dept of Education. Leadership academy
While we wait to respond to community. We will not be rushed. Want to use these results as we intended.
MCAS results public in three weeks. Initial results are embargoed. Not to be released to public. They are for Admin and staff to find ways to better support children. Next school committee meeting report accountability results. Subsequent report accountability

Convocation August 29 at the High School PAC. Staff in red were bright and spirited. Challenging last year. Community impressed Superintendent. Dr. Smith sees people collaborating. Dr. Smith pleased by staff and administration

Chair excited for this year. Fresh start

VI. Principal report

Upcoming Events

8 students on Middle School Football team

½ day kinder ends Friday

PTA meetings SAC meetings coming up

Open House, Health Fair, Garden Tour and Family Dinner. Parents are welcome to visit classroom

Chair says last year fun

Enrollment (see documents on file)

First column grade levels

Gender breakdown

Numbers in each class

Far right are bridge

Enrollment attractive this year

One leave request-Connie Leuenberger

Alicia Knight on Sabbatical

Resignations

Meghan Brown due to housing

Dale Burcalow moved to High School

Lorena Crespo

ESP

Skyler Menton

Kylie Hathaway

Emily Callahan

6 resignations

1 leave

3 due to housing

Bring up at all island school committee.

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN
THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0**

ABSENTIONS) THE RESIGNATIONS OF MEGHAN BROWN, DALE BURCALOW, LORENA CRESPO, SKYLER MENTON, KYLIE HATHAWAY, AND EMILY CALLAHAN AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.

VII. Hope McLeod

Letter to parents of children w/ disabilities discussing new staffing and new IEPs being rolled out

Dept of education safeguards are hard to understand. New one that is easier to understand will be sent to families.

Residential process is a long one that is taken seriously. Edgartown is amazing at it.

We are mandated to provide the least restrictive environment

Adding supports w/in the school and continue to add.

When all have been exhausted, does a team think about and recommend residential.

Brown

Parent- thank staff everyone is so happy. Felt supported during covid.

Chair Scott schedules next meeting for October 9 at 5:30 - hybrid

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS SCOTT AND SECONDED BY MS MURPHY AND MS BROWN
THE EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:30PM 3
AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS**